

Business Notices.

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UNDER-SHIRTS AND DRAWERS, Silk, Buckram, Laidwork, &c., All sizes, at the old established stand, PRICES LOW. No. 61 Nassau Street. **IRA PERCIVAL & SONS.**

WILLCOX & GIBBS SEWING MACHINE, No. 360 Broadway. \$30.

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1861.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. When intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE TRIBUNE," New-York.

To Wholesale Merchants.

THE TRIBUNE, having a larger circulation than any other newspaper, is a valuable medium through which Wholesale Dealers can reach Country Merchants. Advertisements inserted in each of the editions of THE TRIBUNE will be read by a large proportion of the Country Merchants in the Free States.

The Littlejohn Libel Suit.

A verbatim report of the trial of the suit of LITTLEJOHN vs. GREENE will be published in pamphlet form at THE TRIBUNE OFFICE, on WEDNESDAY, 25th instant. It will contain the Pleas, Opening and Arguments of Counsel, Ballads of the Court, the entire Testimony, Summing up of Counsel, &c. Our subscribers who desire to secure and preserve a full report of this remarkable trial, will do well to procure our pamphlet edition. Price 10 cents.

A second edition of the report of the trial of the Littlejohn Libel-Suit is now ready, and for sale at our counter.

We shall publish, to-morrow, a statement from District-Attorney Waterbury in reply to our inquiries of Tuesday.

The telegraph apprises us that at a Republican County Convention held at Syracuse on Tuesday,

"On motion of the Hon. Austin Myers, the Convention warmly indorsed Benjamin F. Bruce, the Republican candidate for Canal Commissioner."

There are doubtless persons who would prefer to run for office with, as there are others who would choose to run without, the warm indorsement of the "Hon. Austin Myers." We wish to be understood as belonging to the latter class.

We have no special news to communicate concerning the position of the Rebels. Neither are affairs materially changed with the National Army on the Potomac. It only appears certain that Gen. McClellan's preparations for decisive and successful action are steadily progressing. The reports concerning the closing of the Potomac, or its obstruction by Rebel batteries, turn out to have been wholly untrue, or greatly exaggerated. Large numbers of vessels are daily passing up and down unmolested. The funeral ceremonies at the burial of Gen. Gibson, took place yesterday at Washington, and were performed with marked solemnity. An order of the day from Gen. Thomas, published in our telegraphic column, pays a merited tribute of honor to the old soldier.

The Niagara, from Liverpool on the 21st and Queenstown on the 22d ult., passed Cape Race Wednesday morning with two days later news. Among her passengers is the young Prince Alfred. The Great Eastern had at last been anchored in the harbor on the 20th, and repairs were at once to be commenced. The London Times indulges in a sneer at Secretary Chase's appeal for subscriptions to the new National Loan. Whether Garibaldi will or will not visit America appears to be not yet definitely settled to the satisfaction of all; an article in a recent number of the Paris Monitor is thought to imply that his absence would give pleasure to the French Government. By a decision of Marshal O'Donnell, the Spanish Government has declared the principle that a slave who touches Spanish soil is at once emancipated, in spite of his former owner. Breadstuffs quiet. Consols 93½@93¾ for money.

A SHORT STORY.

Our Republican State Committee invited a cooperation of citizens of all parties who were in favor of sustaining the Government in a vigorous prosecution of the War for the Union. The Democratic State Committee repelled the overture with insult, but the Democratic masses did not. On the contrary, a large proportion of them promptly and heartily responded to it. So did the remnant of the Bell-Everett party with scarcely a known exception. And a Union State Ticket has been formed which is in the main a very good one, and is made up of candidates selected from all the old parties.

That ticket we mean to support, and with it the local tickets formed on the same basis. We may bolt particular candidates on those tickets on grounds of personal unfitness or ill-desert, but we shall sustain every candidate on the Union War tickets whom we know or believe to be honest and competent.

We urge those who agree with us generally in sentiment to do likewise. Bolt a fraudulent nomination—scratch every unworthy candidate—but sustain the Union ticket and cause. Do this in Republican as well as in Democratic districts—do it when the candidates are Democrats (so that they be for the Union and the War) as readily and heartily as when they are Republicans. To support Union tickets or candidates where so doing ensures to the advantage of your own party, and refuse to do it when the other party is to gain by it, is not honest. Bolt unfair nominations—scratch unworthy candidates—but stand by the Union War Tickets, whether local or general, whether of your own party or otherwise, and whether in Republican or Democratic districts. That is the whole story.

GEN. FREMONT'S PROSPECTS.

The facts that Gen. Fremont is at, in fact, west of Jefferson City, the capital of Missouri, which is but 120 miles from Lexington, now the rebel focus in that State—that the rebels mean to take Booneville and Jefferson City, preparatory to an attack on St. Louis—that Gen. F., on the other hand, is strongly suspected of designs against Lexington and its present possessors—all point to an early and serious collision. The cautious, diplomatic, doubtless wise strategy of McClellan and Beauregard, is not adapted to the West, where those who go to war are strongly suspected of a disposition to hurt somebody, and to look for the enemy with a decided intent to pitch in. We strongly hope not to hear of any fight there for some days yet, since the Union forces are widely scattered on almost every side of the rebels, and there is imminent danger that the latter may strike the first blow east or west in overwhelming force. We have no faith in the strategy which would surround an army of Fifty Thousand with three or four independent corps, separated by two or three days' march, and so liable to be attacked and beaten in succession. Yet, presuming the rebel leaders to understand their business, it is hardly possible to avoid such attacks before effecting a concentration; while to protect Kansas on the west, St. Joseph and the line of the North Missouri Railroad on the north, and Booneville and Jefferson City on the east, might seem to preclude the necessary concentration at all. We judge, however, that the control of the Missouri River and of the Railroad aforesaid are advantages to the Unionists which cannot fail to be improved.

Gen. Fremont is, with regard to Military operations of magnitude, an untried commander. His fitness to lead thousands is now to be established or disproved. Success is the world's test of merit; and, should he now be beaten by the rebels, he will be judged a pretender and a charlatan. He may have less than half so many men as he confronts—his may be the greenest recruits, while the enemy are comparative veterans, flushed with repeated triumphs—he may be crippled for want of arms and munitions, while the allies of Floyd before him may have stolen themselves rich in everything needed—no matter: he must triumph, or be whistled down the wind as unequal to his position. We presume he comprehends this hard necessity, and is prepared to wrestle with Fortune on such conditions as she sees fit to prescribe. He may be beaten—he may even prove incompetent to lead an army—but we sadly mistake the man if any bullets shall touch his back unless in the way of exit from his body. His raw troops may be scattered by an equal force, though we do not believe they will. Should the rebels await his attack at or near Lexington, they will of course avail themselves of every natural advantage of position, and will improve these by field-works. They have never yet fought equal numbers on a fair field, and we do not think they ever will when there is any alternative. And should he fail and fall, simply because he is compelled, like Lyon, to fight an overwhelming force, we are sure his countrymen will not refuse him the tribute of a manly tear.

How many men he will be able to muster in front of Lexington we do not know, but believe the number cannot fall short of Thirty Thousand, and hope it may be swelled to Forty Thousand. If he can but have arms and munitions, we shall hope for the best. We know, however, that he has at no moment been able to arm or equip the Volunteers pressing to his standard—that he left at St. Louis, when he started up the river last Friday, whole regiments for which he had no weapons, while a regiment of cavalry lately drew up before him with but a single saddle and never a belt or scabbard—and that field-guns ordered by him, and deemed essential to his service, have lain for weeks and still lie in this city, simply because some underling of the War Department does not see fit to accept and forward them. Such facts may well justify the gravest apprehensions. The Detroit Advertiser states that the Ordnance Department at Washington sold ten thousand Enfield muskets (or rifles) since Bull Run to a private dealer for \$10 each, and that the Government has since tried to buy them back for \$20. Had but these arms been sent promptly to Fremont instead of being so fooled away, we believe affairs in Missouri would have worn a far brighter aspect to-day. To buy serviceable though not the very best arms at exorbitant prices, may in these times be an unwelcome necessity; to sell them, under existing circumstances, is, in a public functionary, a blunder if no worse.

However, we shall probably soon hear that Missouri is won or lost. We believe the rebels have now collected in and around Lexington the strongest army that they will be able this year to concentrate in Missouri, and that the defeat of this will drive them from the State. A correspondent of The Times, who witnessed (under guard) the conclusion of the siege of Col. Mulligan's position, expressly says:

"All the big guns of the Confederates were there. I saw, among others, Generals Slack, Price, Parsons, Bates, Hardee, Gov. Jackson, Gens. Harris, [Martin] Green, McCulloch, Capt. Emmet McDonald, Col. Turner, Payne, and Clay, and so on, ad infinitum."

—This leaves only Ben. McCulloch's Arkansas ruffians to be accounted for, and they can hardly exceed Ten Thousand. The capture of Mulligan's force has doubtless given prestige to the rebels, and thus brought some thousands to their standard, while it has supplied them with some valuable and more indifferent arms. Lexington is the heart of the densest slave region of Missouri, a fertile and flourishing district, which affords ample food and forage. It is the very best point in the State for a focus of armed, defiant rebellion. And yet we hope and trust.

The Herald congratulates the country on "Improvement in Business—Adaptation of Our People to the New Order of Things," whereof it says:

"Commerce in the North is already entering upon a phase, heretofore unknown in the history of America, but far safer for the future welfare of the country. Instead of the insecure business with the South, by which our merchants have lost vast sums of money, and have been obliged to sacrifice feelings and principles for gain, a certain and lucrative trade

is springing up, and we are becoming dependent upon each other, instead of upon strangers." &c. &c.

Very true indeed, though we had to rub our eyes twice before we could be certain that we were reading a leader in The Herald. Will that paper be good enough to state just what "feelings and principles" "our merchants" "have been obliged to sacrifice" in order to attract and hold "the insecure business with the South?" and whether the said Herald ever had any "feelings and principles" to "sacrifice," whether for Southern "business" or any other?

HEAVY GUNS VS. IRON-CLAD SHIPS.

The question, long and warmly contested in Europe, as to whether iron-clad ships-of-war can be made impregnable to the heaviest land batteries seems not unlikely to be decided in the negative. If so, it will be a great triumph to our naval engineers; for during forty-five years we have relied chiefly on our fortifications for sea-coast defense, and have, at great cost, strengthened our fortresses, acting on the belief that "wooden walls" were less to be trusted than defenses of granite, and that, however invulnerable ships-of-war might be made, land-batteries would still have the advantage, or could at least keep pace with them for purposes of effective defense.

Our readers are aware that two methods of disabling an iron-clad ship-of-war have been proposed, requiring two very different kinds of guns. First, it has been attempted to pierce the plates by shot of great velocity and penetrative power. For this, rifled cannon are the best. The recent costly and elaborate experiment at Portsmouth and Shoeburyness with Whitworth shells and Armstrong shot, the most penetrating projectiles known in England, were based on this principle. The results at present are not regarded as very satisfactory, and a second plan, which was first proposed in this country, has begun to attract attention. This more promising method of attack relies not so much on the penetrating qualities of projectiles as on their ponderous force, low velocity, and smashing effect. By using guns of extraordinary caliber and prodigious weight of metal, it is claimed that we can give such a smashing blow as to stave in the side of an enemy's ship and cripple or destroy him with a single shot, thus giving a new meaning to the old French proverb that "a one-gun land battery is a match for a frigate off-shore."

This American plan, as it is called, is about to be put to the test by several European Governments, though it is attended with considerable difficulties owing to the large size of the guns required. The French Emperor, who took the lead in the construction of iron-clad ships, is also among the first to try this new method of proving their powers of endurance. The Union states that a steel gun is being made for this purpose twenty feet long and four tons in weight. It is bound with iron hoops, and throws a conical projectile. Being easily maneuvered, it can be fired with great rapidity, and produces no danger. A larger and more formidable gun is, however, being made for Louis Napoleon near Liverpool in England. This gun, it is said, will throw an elongated shot of 500 pounds, and the trial of its power was fixed for the beginning of October. In England, Sir William Armstrong is engaged in the manufacture of a gun to carry a ball 300 pounds in weight. The trials with these huge pieces of ordnance cannot fail to be looked for with great interest, as the largest shot hitherto used in battering iron targets is 126 pounds, at a minimum distance of 200 yards.

Of course, great uncertainty hangs over these projects, and, considering the imperfect methods of casting guns in Europe, nothing but signal success can disperse the atmosphere of doubt thrown around them by the adverse opinions of the most eminent men in the profession. Mr. Whitworth, for instance, emphatically declares that "iron guns cast in solid" masses will be found incapable of resisting "the great strains to which rifled cannon are subject; it being well known that great inequalities in the physical structure of the metal are produced during the process of cooling, and that, beyond a certain limit, 'little or no increase of strength is given to the gun by increasing its thickness of metal.'" However true this may be in England, and whatever be the success or disappointment awaiting the efforts of European engineers, we are beforehand with them in this affair; a perfect solution of the problem of casting large guns having, we think, been arrived at in this country.

Captain T. J. Rodman, of the United States Ordnance Corps, is the inventor of this new and beautifully simple method. Nor is it any longer a matter of doubt. A gun 15 inches in the bore has been produced by him, and is now in use at Fortress Monroe. In the opinion of experienced men, this gun is just what was wanted to carry out the American ideas for the annihilation of iron-plated ships-of-war. It was recently examined at Fortress Monroe by a Board of United States officers, and, after a severe and protracted series of trials, was favorably reported on and warmly recommended for adoption in our National fortresses. This piece of ordnance is believed to be the largest cast-iron gun in the world. But the same method of manufacture is adapted to produce guns of still larger caliber without danger of flaws from imperfect and irregular cooling. The total weight of the gun is 49,100 pounds, its length about 16 feet, and its diameter two feet at the mouth and four feet at the vent. The charge of powder varies from 16 to 50 pounds. The ordinary shell weighs 305 pounds, and that for battering purposes 410 pounds; and these huge projectiles can be sent with no small precision to a distance of from one to four miles, according to the charge of powder and the elevation of the gun.

One might, indeed, be inclined to suppose that an additional force and considerable delay would be required to work so unwieldy a piece of ordnance. But with such skill are all the appointments managed that, notwithstanding the enormous proportions and weight of the monster, it is easily manipulated by a sergeant with six men, and the average time of loading

is less than three minutes. Indeed, for horizontal firing, the time for loading and running into battery seldom exceeds a minute and a half. This fact is mentioned because cumbersome unwieldiness is by not a few in the profession supposed to belong to guns of extraordinary caliber. This, if true, is doubtless to be regretted; though, as Major Barnard observes: "It is better to be half an hour, if necessary, in firing one shot that does its business, than to spend the same time in firing ten which 'do no harm.'"

One of the most interesting facts relative to this gun is, as already stated, that the method by which it is cast is such that all the most formidable obstacles are surmounted which have so long prevented the making of serviceable strong guns of larger caliber than 10 or 11 inches, and now there seems no reason why pieces of ordnance should not be produced having a bore of 20 or even 30 inches. Captain T. J. Rodman, of the United States Ordnance Corps, is the maker of the gun, and, we believe, has spent several years in unwearying researches and costly experiments with the view to perfect his plans and make his ideas of practical use to his country. The invention is one of the most important that has been made in naval gunnery during the present century.

TRANSFER OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

In concert with the Government, Marshal Murray has recently perfected in Washington arrangements to baffle the purposes of those slave-traders who, driven from this port, are preparing to prosecute their nefarious traffic abroad. The recent condemnations of the Sarah and Augusta, and the safe-keeping of important witnesses in the new House of Detention, have thrown the merchants in flesh into such a panic that they have virtually abandoned the business of outfitting in this country. As a last resort, they have determined to transfer their operations to ports like Marseilles and Havre, where the peculiar difference between the cargoes of whalers and slave-ships is not so well understood as in this port. Each steamer to Havana and Europe for some time past has carried some of the piratical gentry from our insupportable shores; and, if we may not have the satisfaction of seeing many of them vigorously punished for their crimes, we can at least congratulate ourselves that, through the energetic action of Mr. Murray, the pestilent crew have been driven out of the country.

The Government has recently sent instructions to all our Consuls at foreign ports to refuse clearances to vessels from this country whose legitimate cargoes may be discharged and replaced by others of a certain description. This, it would seem, must be a death-blow to the most accursed traffic in which civilized or savage men have engaged.

KINGS COUNTY POLITICS.

We regret that the Republican General Committee of Kings County have resolved to repudiate the People's ticket, put in nomination last Saturday, and have called Primary elections to set up strict party candidates. This is no time for partisanship; the country demands patriots not partisans. This hasty action is in strong contrast with the more considerate course of the Democratic General Committee, which met on the same evening. No doubt the Republicans are right in believing that the Assembly ticket, nominated by the People's Convention, is in some respects objectionable; but we do not believe that they have taken the right course to remedy it. One of the Democratic candidates has been too bitter an opponent of the war and the Government to be worthy of his place on the ticket, while another, a Republican, is said to have been put on by means of positive fraud, in the place of Mr. Nathan Comstock, who was untruly represented as declining a renomination, and whose honest, straightforward, manly course in the last session at Albany would otherwise have insured him a place as a candidate. But while we regret that an unfit man has been honored, and a good man has been omitted, we think the fact does not warrant our people in foolishly going in for "straight tickets" at this juncture. Such a course is unwise. It is calculated to do us positive harm, by keeping up the old clamor against Republicanism, while it plays into the hands of old politicians who, though they have sedulously striven for months to secure a renomination, have been rigorously thrust aside by the patriotic people, because of their unworthiness. The action of our Republican friends has given new life to these leeches, who now hope through our divisions to obtain a new lease of office. Let us hope that the very respectable opposition to such a course, manifested in the Committee, will be improved upon by the Republican voters at large, and that this pernicious movement may be quickly put down. Meanwhile, let the People's Convention revise their ticket, and correct the one or two obvious errors into which they have fallen.

New-York State Politics.

STRACHAN, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1861. The People's County Convention was held here yesterday. It was presided over by the Hon. Charles B. Sedgwick. There was a large attendance, the majority being Republicans. George Geddes was nominated by acclamation for Senator. Judge Shankland, Jerome J. Briggs, and other prominent Republicans, took the lead in the proceedings.

A straight-out Republican Convention was also held, and Allen Munroe re-nominated for State Senator. On motion of the Hon. Austin Myers, the Convention warmly indorsed Benjamin F. Bruce, the Republican candidate for Canal Commissioner.

KINGSTON, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1861. Frederick B. Westbrook has been nominated as Union candidate for State Senator for the Xth District.

ALBANY, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1861. The Democratic Judicial Convention held here to-day nominated Theo. Miller of Columbia for the Supreme Court Judge.

The Republican Convention also met and nominated for the same place Erasmus Cook of Ulster. The Republican General Committee have called a County Convention for Saturday, Oct. 12.

The People's Convention has been called for Thursday, Oct. 10.

Canal Accident.

At Cayuga's, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1861. Four gates at Lock No. 30, Welland Canal, near Thorold, were carried away this afternoon by the schooner Harriet Ross, and it will probably take three days to repair the damage.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

Issue of the New Treasury Notes.

THE OREGON WAR DEBT BONDS.

The Reported Close of the Potomac.

AN UNFOUNDED ALARM.

THE ENLISTMENTS FOR THE UNION ARMY.

50,000 Entering the Service per Week.

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ADVANCE.

A SKIRMISH AT EDSALL'S HILL.

FUNERAL OF GEN. GIBSON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1861.

THE ISSUE OF THE TREASURY NOTES.

To-morrow the first installment of the 7.30 Treasury notes will be mailed to subscribers. Every day the great number of letters received complaining of delay, occupy the time of clerks, hinder the Department, and retard the issuing of the notes. The notes will be sent as rapidly as the clerks can write the necessary letters, but at least a week will be required to supply those who have already subscribed. Beside those sent to subscribers, \$1,000,000 in notes are to be sent to New-York daily.

THE OREGON WAR-DEBT BONDS.

The United States 6 per cent bonds for the Oregon war debt are being signed. They are in three denominations, of \$500, \$100, and \$50. The interest on the two larger is payable semi-annually, and on the \$50s annually, with coupons attached. The accounts are now before the Third Auditor. Only \$5,000 in amount have been as yet settled and passed. The bonds are payable at any time after July 1, 1861.

PAYMENTS FROM THE TREASURY.

Not much over \$300,000 was paid out yesterday at the Treasury.

THE REPORTED CLOSE OF THE POTOMAC.

The telegraphic reports from here, announcing the closing of the Potomac, are now proved to be, as we insisted, groundless. Notwithstanding the large number of vessels passing up and down this season, but trifling damage has been sustained by them. This morning, the sloop John L. Brown arrived with a load of oysters from the Lower Potomac. The captain reports that on his passage he passed fifty or sixty sail with hay, wood, coal and farm produce. He sailed past Freestone Point last evening, and at that time twenty or thirty vessels were in that vicinity bound up. He was not molested, and saw and heard nothing alarming at the site of the dreaded battery or elsewhere on the river. None of the vessels were fired on while he was in sight of them.

NUMBER OF ENLISTMENTS.

The number of volunteers entering the service from all the loyal States is now about 50,000 per week.

RESIGNATIONS.

The following resignations have been accepted:

First Lieutenant Frank S. Curtis, 15th Illinois. Second Lieutenant Joseph Fox, Union Coast Guard.

Sergeant Charles Green, Company C, 1st Cavalry, discharged to accept a Second Lieutenancy in the 1st Missouri Light Artillery.

Many resignations of officers of volunteers have not been accepted on account of error in papers.

PENSION GRANTED.

A pension has been granted Margaret Anne, widow of John James Fuller, master's mate, killed at Mathias Point, of \$10 per month.

PROMOTED.

E. D. Webster of Nebraska was yesterday promoted to a \$1,600 clerkship in the State Department.

CONSUL TO SMYRNA.

Julius Bing has been appointed Consul to Smyrna.

ARMY PREPARATIONS.

Quiet reigns all along our Potomac lines. The day has been one of Sabbath stillness. The war moves stealthily in that quarter, but surely. Policy and the telegraphic censor forbid the publication of preparations and plans that will make October a memorable month.

A SKIRMISH.

Yesterday afternoon, a mile and a half beyond Edsall's Hill, a slight skirmish occurred, in which a private of the New-Jersey Third was killed and three were wounded. Surgeon Cox and eleven men had been out scouting, and encountered a rebel advance picket of one hundred men. Cox instantly cried, "Battalion, halt!" The Rebels, thinking they were met by a superior force, broke and ran. Our small force, in returning, were suddenly confronted by another Rebel guard, about eighty strong, and fired on with the result as above stated. The fire was returned with good effect, and each party then fell back.

GEN. GIBSON'S FUNERAL.

Gen. Gibson's brothers in arms bear his remains to the Congressional burying-ground to-day. A detachment of cavalry, followed by a section of Griffin's Battery and the 8th Infantry, preceded the hearse, and the members of the Cabinet and numerous Government officers followed. At the grave Gen. Scott stood bare-headed in the rain, painfully interested in the ceremonies. Adj.-Gen. Thomas issued the following General Order:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Sept. 30, 1861.

In answering to the army the deceased of the Commissary-General of Subsistence, Brevet Maj.-Gen. George Gibson, who departed this life at his residence in this city last night at twelve o'clock, the Secretary of War has a most painful duty to discharge.

One by one during the last few years the patriarchs of the army, the veterans of our second War of Independence, have been dropping into their peaceful graves. The time honored names of a Towson and a Jessup were no longer borne on the rolls of the living, and to-day one of the few remaining survivors of the gallant company, and one of the most distinguished, is laid to rest in the quietude of the last sleep. All honor to these worthy sons of the Republic. Born of it in its golden days, and may the soldiers of our young army strive hard to emulate their bright example, and be as useful as were they to preserving our precious Union unshaken by any

slain. A native of Pennsylvania, Gen. Gibson entered the army from civil life as a Captain of Infantry, in May, 1802. Subsequently promoted Major and Lieutenant-Colonel, and after having served with distinction through the war of 1812-15 he was discharged at a close. Reappointed as Quartermaster-General in 1816, and subsequently made Commissary-General in 1818, he rendered invaluable service in the former capacity to the army of Gen. Jackson in Florida, and thereby earned the enduring friendship of that great soldier. Brevetted a Brigadier-General for faithful service in 1826, and a Major-General for meritorious conduct as Commissary-General during the Mexican War, he was subsequently the chief of his department for over forty years to the entire satisfaction. It is believed, of his superiors and the Army. The arrangements for his funeral will be made by Maj.-Gen. McClellan, Commander of the Army of the Potomac. As an appropriate tribute of respect to his memory, there will be fired at every military post, on the day after the receipt of this order, thirteen minute guns, commencing at midnight. The National flag will be displayed at half-mast from the same hour until sunset of the same day, and for thirty days the prescribed badge of mourning will be worn by the officers of the Army.

By order, L. THOMAS, Adjutant-General.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Senator Carlisle, who has been here several days, went home this morning. He gave a cheering account of affairs in Western Virginia. Everywhere there those who give aid and comfort to the enemy are brought up with a round turn. The effect is salutary.

ARREST OF LIEUT. STEVENS, U. S. N.

Lieut. H. R. Stevens, of the U. S. sloop-of-war Portsmouth, tendered his resignation, but got an arrest. He is a native of Connecticut, but appointed from Florida.

SURVEYS OF RAILROADS.

Gen. Van Vliet has had surveys at work on the Orange and Loudon Railroads, and they will soon be used for Government purposes. A branch track will also be laid to McDowell's position.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1861.

A PATRIOTIC VOICE FROM SWITZERLAND.

A letter from the ex-President of the Republic of Switzerland, who is now a member of the Federal Council, says:

"We watch here with great solicitude the progress of the Secession war (Sonderbund-krieg)—a war which, if not successfully checked by the patriots of the South, may assume a most formidable aspect. The Secession war may appear imposing, even to the South. Nevertheless, when the avalanche is once fairly in motion, it is too late to frustrate its formation, and gathering, in its devastating course, to vast proportions, it sweeps restlessly onward, regardless of every obstacle, until striking some mountain wall of rock (foreverward), it disintegrates into fragments, and rendered harmless to many a peaceful and happy valley home upon which it would have otherwise brought ruin and misery. May God, the Almighty, protect the Republic!"

OBJECTION TO AMERICAN CONSULS.

It appears that Mr. Bernis, the American Consul to Zurich, has not yet received his exequatur, and that the Consul to Basle will likely fare no better, unfavorable reports being in circulation in regard to both of them. As to the former, it is said by the Swiss authorities, that, while editing a newspaper in the West, he frequently indulged in severe strictures against the Swiss Government, which has determined not to grant him an exequatur until his reported malicious language toward Switzerland finds refutation from parties authorized to inquire into his antecedents.

SUTLERS.

It will be of interest to the military to state that troops in the campaign, on detachment or on distant service, will be allowed sutlers, at the rate of one for every regiment, corps, or separate detachment, to be appointed by the commanding officer of such regiment, corps, or detachment, upon the recommendation of the Council of Administration, subject to the approval of the General or other officer in command.

EXPERIMENTS WITH TRANSPORTATION WAGONS.

The Government for some time past has been making experiments with iron-wheel transportation wagons.

FUNERAL OF COMMISSARY GIBSON.

The funeral of Gen. Gibson took place at noon to-day. The military display on the occasion was grand. The President, the heads of the Departments, Gen. McClellan, and numerous field and staff officers, joined in the procession.

PRIVATE LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Secretary of War, in consequence of the pressure of public business, is compelled to cease opening any letters addressed to him, marked "private." Hereafter all letters so marked will remain unopened.

LIEUT. SCHOONMAKER.

Some apprehension is felt for Lieut. Schoonmaker, who was detached from the Minnesota, with orders to report to the Navy Department, but who has failed to do so.

OFFICERS' AND SOLDIERS' CLAIMS.

The Second Auditor of the Treasury has issued a circular to enable those who may have claims upon the United States for monies due deceased officers and soldiers, to obtain settlement with the least delay.

COL. EISENBERG'S ARREST.

Although Col. Eisenberg of Philadelphia was put under arrest seven weeks ago, by order of General McDowell, he has not yet received a copy of the charge and specifications against him. Whatever these may be, many of his brother officers and friends express the opinion that he should either be tried, and if found guilty dismissed, or restored to his command.

ELECTIONEERING.

As the Pennsylvania State election will take place next Tuesday, a number of politicians are now electioneering among the troops from Pennsylvania on the line of the Potomac. On that day the latter will vote in their respective camps, the Captains and Lieutenants acting as Judges of election, the returns under the law being as valid as if the voting took place in their precincts at home. The presence of active politicians in camp for the purpose of influencing the voting of volunteers is not considered by rigid disciplinarians calculated to have a good moral effect upon the army.

REBEL CLOTHING CAPTURED.

Capt. Thomas, of the Quartermaster's Clothing and Equipage Department, has on exhibition at his office a considerable amount of clothing belonging to the Rebel army, which was captured at the time of the advance of our troops on Munson's Hill. Some of the coats and pantaloons for officers were of the finest French cloth, and of a substantial character.